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Geneva, 28 June-30 July 1993
Item 21 of the provisional agenda*

NARCOTIC DRUGS

Administrative arrangements to ensure the full technical independence of the International Narcotics Control Board

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Economic and Social Council (see annex) the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme on the implementation of the administrative arrangements to ensure the full technical independence of the International Narcotics Control Board, as requested in resolution 1991/48 of 21 June 1991. The administrative arrangements are contained in the annex to that resolution.

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* E/1993/100.

Annex

NOTE BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMME ON ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS TO ENSURE THE FULL TECHNICAL INDEPENDENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD*

1. In its resolution 1991/48, the Economic and Social Council approved the administrative arrangements prepared on behalf of the Secretary-General by the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) in agreement with the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and contained in the annex to that resolution; requested the Executive Director to implement those arrangements, taking into account the character, powers and functions of INCB and the importance of its full technical independence in the performance of its tasks; and also requested the Executive Director to report to the Council, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-sixth session, on the implementation of Council resolution 1991/48.

2. In accordance with paragraph 1 of the administrative arrangements referred to above, UNDCP has been providing secretariat services to INCB since the full integration of the structures and functions of the formerly separate INCB secretariat into UNDCP. In particular, such services have been provided by an INCB secretariat as part of the Treaty Implementation and Legal Affairs Division dealing specifically with the functions of INCB, as well as by staff elsewhere in UNDCP. The Secretary of INCB, appointed by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Board, coordinates and supervises UNDCP assistance and support to the Board.

3. By its decision 50/8, the Board adopted specific working procedures to ensure the full support of, and adequate cooperation with, UNDCP in respect of:

(a) Measures to be taken by the Board to ensure the execution of the provisions of the international drug control treaties;

(b) The preparation of the annual report of INCB;

(c) Mutual information and advice on the granting of technical and financial assistance to Governments.

4. The working procedures agreed upon between INCB and UNDCP will be kept under review to ensure that they meet with the spirit of the administrative arrangements approved by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1991/48.

5. The administrative arrangements relating to the budget, communications, storage and management of records, representation, dates of meetings and publicity as set forth in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/48 have been implemented by UNDCP.

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* Originally issued under the symbol E/CN.7/1993/10.

6. The Executive Director of UNDCP and the Board, in close consultation, continue to review the effectiveness and efficiency of the administrative arrangements and the above-mentioned procedures as well as their results in ensuring the execution of the Board's mandates. Should either INCB or UNDCP deem it necessary to develop new or to revise the existing administrative arrangements, proposals would be submitted to the Economic and Social Council for consideration and approval.

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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Allegations regarding infringements of trade union rights in South Africa

Note by the Secretary-General

1. At its substantive session of 1992, the Economic and Social Council considered the report of the Fact-finding and Conciliation Commission on Freedom of Association concerning South Africa (see E/1992/70) referred to it by the International Labour Office (ILO), pursuant to Council resolution 1991/37 of 31 May 1991, and noted with satisfaction the findings, conclusions and recommendations contained therein, making a specific reference to paragraph 748, clauses 13, 14 and 15 of the report.

2. In this connection, in its resolution 1992/12 of 20 July 1992, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to invite the Government of South Africa to report, no later than 31 December 1992, on the measures it had taken to give effect to the recommendations contained in the said report, and thereafter at yearly intervals until the Economic and Social Council was satisfied that the said recommendations had been implemented. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to refer the reports of the Government of South Africa on this matter to the ILO, with the request that the latter transmit to the Council its advice and comments stemming from examination of the said reports. The Council took note of the request of the Government of South Africa that the ILO provide technical assistance and advice to the Government, and to labour and management organizations of South Africa, in respect of the recasting of that country's labour laws, and it invited the ILO to comply with this request and to inform the Council of actions taken in this regard in the context of an annual report to the United Nations.

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* E/1993/100.

3. Pursuant to the request of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General sent a letter dated 22 October 1992 to the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, drawing his attention to Council resolution 1992/12 and, inter alia, inviting the Government of South Africa to report no later than the end of 1992 on the measures it had taken on the matter. The Secretary-General informed the South African authorities that he would refer the information provided by them to the ILO, as specified in the resolution, and he pointed out that the advice and comments of the ILO stemming from an examination of the said reports and the reports themselves would be transmitted to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1993.

4. By a letter dated 5 February 1993, the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the South African Permanent Mission in Geneva transmitted the "Memorandum regarding developments on labour issues also referred to in the recommendations of the Fact-finding and Conciliation Commission" to the Director-General of the International Labour Organisation. In response, the ILO drew the attention of the South African authorities to the fact that Economic and Social Council had specifically requested their Government to submit its report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who would then transmit that document to the ILO. Only after its transmittal by the Secretary-General could the report be examined by the ILO.

5. The Secretariat received a reply dated 11 February 1993 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, in which the Secretary-General was advised that a tripartite working group of Government, organized labour and employers had been formed in South Africa and would, inter alia, be studying the recommendations contained in the report of the ILO Fact-finding and Conciliation Commission. Where necessary, legislation would be drafted and administrative action taken which would affect some of the recommendations of the Commission. The Permanent Representative pointed out that the Government of South Africa had noted the interest of the Economic and Social Council but that since a direct channel of communication between the Government and the ILO had been established in respect of the Fact-finding and Conciliation Commission, his Government was of the opinion that it should continue to use this channel in its further response to the report.

6. On the basis of the above communication, the Secretary-General transmitted a second letter to the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, dated 24 March 1993, in which he reiterated the request of the Economic and Social Council, namely that the Secretary-General refer the reports of the Government of South Africa on the matter to the ILO, which in turn should transmit to the Council its advice and comments stemming from an examination of the said reports. In the letter, it was underscored that, in order to meet the requirements of Council resolution 1992/12, the Government of South Africa should send its response directly to the Secretary-General, who would then make it available to the Director-General of the International Labour Organisation. The Permanent Representative was asked to advise his Government of the need to follow the procedures outlined in Council resolution 1992/12.

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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Substantive session of 1993
Item 8 of the provisional agenda

STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF EFFORTS TO STUDY, MITIGATE AND MINIMIZE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CHERNOBYL DISASTER

Letter dated 22 June 1993 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the appeal to parliaments, Governments and the international community issued by the participants in the International Conference on the Scientific and Practical Aspects of Medical and Social Problems and the Role of the Sanatorium and Spa System in Improving the Health of the Population Exposed to the Effects of Radiation as a Consequence of the Accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, and of Other Radiological Disasters, held on 10 and 11 February 1993 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 106 of the preliminary list, and also as an official document of the substantive session of 1993 of the Economic and Social Council, under item 8 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Y. VORONTSOV

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* A/48/50.

Annex

Appeal to parliaments, Governments and the international community issued by the participants in the International Conference on the Scientific and Practical Aspects of Medical and Social Problems and the Role of the Sanatorium and Spa System in Improving the Health of the Population Exposed to the Effects of Radiation as a Consequence of the Accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, and of Other Radiological Disasters, held on 10 and 11 February 1993

At the International Conference, held at Galitsyno near Moscow, scientists and specialists from many countries of Europe, Asia and America, and representatives from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), analysed the consequences of the Chernobyl and other nuclear accidents for present and future generations.

The present generation was stunned by the scale of the nuclear disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. Vast areas of Belarus, Ukraine and Russia are contaminated with the radioactive remnants of the explosion. In Russia alone, 7,000 towns and villages, with a population of 2.3 million people, have been affected. The health of the adult and child population in these and other areas contaminated by radiation is of serious concern and requires continuous medical control.

Major programmes are being carried out to resettle people from the affected areas and provide them with uncontaminated foodstuffs and with medical care and treatment, inter alia with the assistance of international organizations, the general public and the Governments of a number of foreign countries. However, these efforts must be intensified in order to improve the quality of health care and achieve other humanitarian goals, establish medical, diagnostic and treatment centres, as well as sanatoriums and other establishments for convalescents and increase appropriations for medical equipment, uncontaminated foodstuffs and the prime necessities, especially for children.

The participants in the Conference appreciate the great contribution that the parliaments, Governments and the general public of Russia, Belarus and Ukraine have made to the implementation of national programmes of assistance to those segments of the population that were exposed to radiation, and hope that they will continue to accord high priority to this crucial problem.

The participants in the Conference welcomed the efforts of the United Nations to mobilize the international community to mitigate the consequences of this technological disaster, which is unprecedented in the history of mankind. They hope that these efforts will help save the lives of the hundreds of thousands of people affected by the accident and contribute substantially to the full rehabilitation of the regions contaminated by radioactivity.

The participants in the Conference approved the UNESCO Chernobyl programme and the WHO International Programme on the Health Effects of the Chernobyl Accident. They are confident that these programmes, as well as the relevant

projects and programmes of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation and other international organizations, will be fully implemented.

The Conference appeals to parliaments, Governments, social organizations, scientific and business circles and citizens of all countries to intensify their efforts to help save the lives and protect the health of the people affected by the accident, and fully revitalize the regions that have been exposed to radioactive contamination.

For their part, the participants in the Conference, both personally and within the framework of the organizations that they represent, shall do everything in their power to assist the victims of radiological accidents and prevent nuclear disasters in future, in order to eliminate the very possibility of nuclear cataclysms.